

PATENT 30203/38233

FFFHE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Eryurek et al. I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, on Serial No.: 10/085,445 March 24, 2004, in an envelope addressed to: Filed: February 28, 2002 Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 For: FIDUCIAL TECHNIQUE FOR Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 **ESTIMATING AND USING** DEGRADATION LEVELS IN A **PROCESS PLANT** Group Art Unit: 2121 Marla L. Hudson Reg. No. 43,680 Attorney for Applicants Examiner: Thomas Pham

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED DECEMBER 24, 2003

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 RECEIVED

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Technology Center 2100

Sir:

In response to the Office action dated December 24, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows and consider the following remarks:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.